

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-3, 5-7, 10-14, and 29-30 are pending in this application.

Claims 4, 8, and 15-28 were previously canceled.

Claim 30 is hereby canceled.

Claims 1-3, 6, 9-10, 12, and 28 are hereby amended.

1. Claim 30 was objected to. The claim is canceled.
2. Claims 1-3, 5-7, 9-14, and 29-30 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) over Donovan et al. and Minura et al in view of Kung et al.

Donovan fails to teach or suggest a gateway through which a voice call is made, where the gateway comprises an interconnected node of the network and links the voice call therethrough to call source and recipient, for the entirety of the call. For example, the last sentence of the Donovan abstract teaches only a voice response unit (VRU) that establishes the call and then releases the call after connection.

Applicant's amended claims address the gateway that is a node of the network that links the source device and the recipient device over the network for the entire period of the call. Applicant's amended claim 29 refers the node as the "call node".

Donovan, therefore, teaches away from any possibility that a gateway could or would serve to count packet data numbers (or the like) during the entire call, because Donovan does not connect any gateway to link caller and recipient throughout the entire call. Donovan could not serve as Applicant's counter and network link between caller and recipient, because the Donovan VRU releases the call once connected between caller and recipient. Thus, the Donovan base reference teaches away.

The other references, Minura and King, merely address certain features, but not deficiencies of Donovan. These other references, as well, do not teach or suggest, in any combination, the amended and remaining claims of Applicant.

Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the remaining amended claims and the newly added claims.

If the Examiner has any questions or comments, the undersigned attorney for Applicant respectfully requests a call to discuss any issues. The Office is authorized to charge any excess fees or to credit any overage to the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 50-1350.

Respectfully submitted,

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